



NEWS RELEASE

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The CDC Ban on Dog Imports Has Little to Do with Rabies, According to Internal CDC Documents

Vass, NC (September 15, 2021) — [China Rescue Dogs](#), a 501(c)(3) organization committed to rescuing and saving dogs from the slaughterhouses, meat trade, abuse, and neglect in China, obtained internal CDC documents relating to the CDC ban through a Freedom of Information Act request. The documents reveal that the CDC ban on dogs entering the United States from 113 countries, was not due to any real rabies threat.

According to the public CDC Suspension of Dogs statement issued in the spring of 2021, “this temporary action is necessary to ensure the health and safety of dogs imported into the United States and to protect the public’s health against the reintroduction of canine rabies virus variant (dog rabies) into the United States. In 2020, CDC identified a significant increase compared with the previous 2 years in the number of imported dogs that were denied entry into the United States from high-risk countries.”

While it is true that there was an increase in the number of dogs denied, there was not an increase in the number of actual rabies cases. The vast majority of denials had to do with dogs coming in with falsified ages. This means the dogs that came in were under three months of age and therefore not yet fully vaccinated for rabies.

According to internal CDC documents obtained through the FOIA, out of the approximately one million dogs entering the United States in 2020, 458 were denied entry due to invalid, incomplete, or falsified paperwork. In 2019, 298 dogs were denied entry for the same reason. The increase in “denied entries” were only 160 additional dogs out of one million.

Here are the actual CDC numbers:

<i>458 Entry Denials (2020)</i>	<i>298 Denials (2019)</i>	<i>304 Denials (2018)</i>
<u>Reasons for Denial (2020)</u>	<u>Denials (2019)</u>	<u>Denials (2018)</u>
9 vaccinated at less than 12 weeks old	33	63
14 less than 28 days since vaccination	9	26
1 expired rabies vaccine		1
253 falsified age	231	145
146 Rabies Certificate incomplete	4	2
1 Rabies Certificate expired		
2 Rabies Certificate inaccurate	8	31



2	Rabies Certificate falsified, multiple DOBs		
4	Rabies Certificate falsified, reused microchips		
9	Rabies Certificate not in English	4	
14	Rabies Certificate not provided	9	32
3	sick		4

Of the 458 total entry denials, 338 (74%) of those dogs came from Russia, Ukraine and Colombia.

Jill Stewart, President and Founder of China Rescue Dogs states, “if the importers bringing in dogs from these three countries are falsifying documents or not properly completing their rabies certificates, then the CDC should suspend entry of dogs from those countries. These internal documents reveal that the CDC dog suspension was absolutely an overreaction – in part due to the increase in the number of puppies from Russia, Ukraine, and Colombia. So, the CDC made the blanket decision to completely stop **all** imports of dogs from 113 countries, rather than focusing on the offending countries.”



Dogs crammed into cages to be sold at a China dog meat market now unable to be rescued into the United States.

The CDC suspension which began on July 14th, 2021, has spiraled into a crisis affecting rescue dogs around the globe. Most recently, the suspension likely also played a role in the approximately 130 dogs that were left to die at the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan.

“Rescue dogs all over the world no longer have hope,” says Brandy Cherven, Vice President of Operations for China Rescue Dogs. “All we want to do is save dogs from the slaughterhouses and meat-trade in China, so they can live happy lives with their forever families here in the U.S. But our country apparently no longer cares.”

China Rescue Dogs has viable and responsible solutions to end the CDC dog suspension, but unfortunately, they are being ignored by the CDC. “No one will talk with us,” says Stewart. “Our coalition of rescue dog organizations hired one of the top law firms in the country, just to try to get a seat at the table.”

If you would like to support China Rescue Dogs and their fight against the CDC dog ban, you can go to their website, www.ChinaRescueDogs.org.